

COUNTRY East Germany Approved For Release 2006/04/19 : CIA-RDP82-00457R016100220007-6

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Finsterwalde Airfield

25X1

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1C

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

17 December 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 1

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

25X1

REMARKS

25X1X

DO NOT CIRCULATE

1. Air activities observed at Finsterwalde airfield during the period from 21 through 30 October included:
- 21 October. From 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. several jet bombers and 1 B-25 circled over the field. The ceiling was at an altitude of about 500 meters and visibility was about 1,000 meters. Flying discontinued when rainy weather set in.
- 22 and 23 October. There was no flying; the weather was rainy and visibility was limited.
- 24 October. Jet bombers with extended landing gears circled over the field from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m., IL-28 [] took off 25X1 three times and practiced four approaches at Finsterwalde-West airfield. When the plane climbed, the tail weapons were fired. Nose weapons were not observed in operation.
- 27 and 28 October. There was no flying. The weather was overcast, and visibility was less than 1,000 meters.
- 29 October. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. individual jet bombers practiced take offs and landings. The ceiling was at about 500 meters and visibility about 1,500 meters.
- 30 October. From 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. jet bombers with extended landing gears circled over the field. Two IL-28s practiced low level attacks with firing at ground targets from tail weapons at Finsterwalde-West airfield. 25X1

2.

[] In the center of the plane was erected a pole, about 10 meters high with two crossed laths at its top. Another such pole, without laths was observed 200 to 300 meters distance from the plane. On 30 October, when air-to-ground firing was practiced at Finsterwalde-West airfield, truck [] was parked 25X1 at the southern edge of the installation. An air force officer was seen on the top of the truck; he spoke into a microphone when a jet bomber approached the field. A cable extended from the microphone to a portable radio set which was fitted with an antenna rod about 6 meters high. [] 25X1

20 new open strand telephone lines mounted on permanent poles extending from Buergerheide to Sonnewalder Chaussee passed along the airfield.

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25X1A

25X1C

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4. From 2 to 3 p.m. on 29 October, IL-28 [] was observed practicing low level attacks at Finsterwalde-West airfield, while other jet bombers circled over the field with extended landing gears. From 2 to 3:30 p.m. on 30 October, an IL-28 several times approached Finsterwalde-West airfield firing its tail weapons when it climbed. A pole with crossed boards on its top was seen at the field. At 8 a.m. on 1 November, [] 12 jet bombers and 8 Il-2s in front of the hangars at Finsterwalde airfield. There was no flying.

5. On 1 November, [] 8 x 37 mm AA guns in front of the buildings in the southeastern corner of the field. Eight gun emplacements and 4 bunkers [] at the AA emplacement east of the spur track. The AA emplacement at the northern edge of the field was not reconnoitered.

6. The fence south of the Schacksdorf brick works had been extended further to the east.

7. Incoming and outgoing rail shipments observed at the field during the period from 20 October through 8 November included:

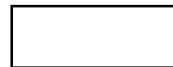
Date in October	Number and Type of Cars	Load	Dispatched from	Consignee
20	No military shipments			
21	1 flatcar	four-wheeled, unnumbered tractors	Dresden-Klotzsche	Red Army Airfield
	1 tank car	105 hl of naphthalene	Velten	[]
	1 boxcar	ammunition	Finsterwalde airfield	Red Army, Cottbus
22	2 boxcars	potatoes	Moellendorf	Unit Pavlov, Airfield
	1 boxcar	military goods	Velten	[]
23	2 boxcars	potatoes	Moellendorf	Unit Pavlov, Airfield

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Date in October	Number and Type of Cars	Load	Dispatched from	Consignee	
25	2 tank cars	180 and 240 hl naphthalene	Riesa		25X1C
26	1 boxcar	ammunition	Finsterwalde airfield	Stendal	
27	4 boxcars	ration supply	Cottbus		25X1C
29	4 tank cars	265, 300, 300, and 300 hl naphthalene	Riesa		
30	2 boxcars	potatoes	Luckau		
31	5 flatcars		Netzeband	Red Army	
	5 converted boxcars	tractor and timber about 60 soldiers			

Date in November

1	1 flatcar	transformators, 2 boxes, 1.2 x 1.2 x 2 meters each	Jueterbor-Altes Lager		25X1C
	4 boxcars	potatoes	Finsterwalde railroad station	Finsterwalde airfield, Unit Pavlov	
4	6 gondola cars	coal		Airfield	
7	1 tank car	200 hl of naphthalene	Velten		25X1C

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Fuel shipments were covered completely, while the information on coal shipments is incomplete.

8. From 1 to 5 p.m. on 20 October, jet bombers practiced air-to-ground firing at Finsterwalde airfield. The same exercises were observed about noon on 30 and 31 October and 5 November. On 2 November, three jet bombers were observed at Finsterwalde airfield.

9. On 2 November, at the highest elevation of Finsterwalde-west airfield, a pole about 5 meters high with crossed laths at its top. Lower poles were seen at both sides of this pole, about 200 meters distant from it. these poles had been set up for the marking of targets.

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10. At 12:30 p.m. on 9 November, 12 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets left Lindenhof toward the bomber corps headquarters; ten soldiers also wearing black-bordered black epaulets proceeded toward the komendatura; 56 soldiers who wore black-bordered blue epaulets went toward the billets, and 56 soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets proceeded toward the komendatura. Some of the motor vehicle sheds of the motor vehicle repair shop were occupied. Three radio trucks were seen; one of them was fitted with the antenna of a KUS-2 type radar on its roof. The building previously occupied by a transport unit was unoccupied and unguarded. Rumors were circulating that the building was to be occupied by the "Dienst fuer Deutschland" labor service. [redacted] building, a, b, c, and h of the komendatura. Only part of the windows of building d were lighted. The total of soldiers quartered there was estimated at 100 to 120.³

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1 and 4

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3. [redacted] Comment. For location of these buildings and installations, see Annex 1.

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h. [redacted] Comment. Finsterwalde airfield is still believed to be occupied by two bomber regiments which are equipped with about 12 IL-28s and 15 Pe-2s. The 8 Pe-2s mentioned in paragraph h of the present report were only part of the Pe-2s stationed at the field; other Pe-2s were certainly housed in the hangars. The report indicates that intensive training in air-to-ground firing by tail gunners continued. For sketch of target at Finsterwalde-West airfield, see Annex 2. No blind flying was observed. On those days between 20 October and 9 November, when visibility was limited to below 1,000 meters, there was no flying at the field.

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Annex 1



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Target Marked at Finsterwalde-West Airfield

Legend:

- 1 Bomber corps headquarters
- 2 Club house and movie theater
- 3 Billets of the bomber corps headquarters
- 4 Dispensary
- 5 Motor vehicle repair shop
- 6 Main warehouse
- 7 Workmen's quarters
- 8 Buildings previously occupied by a transport unit
- 9 Komendatura

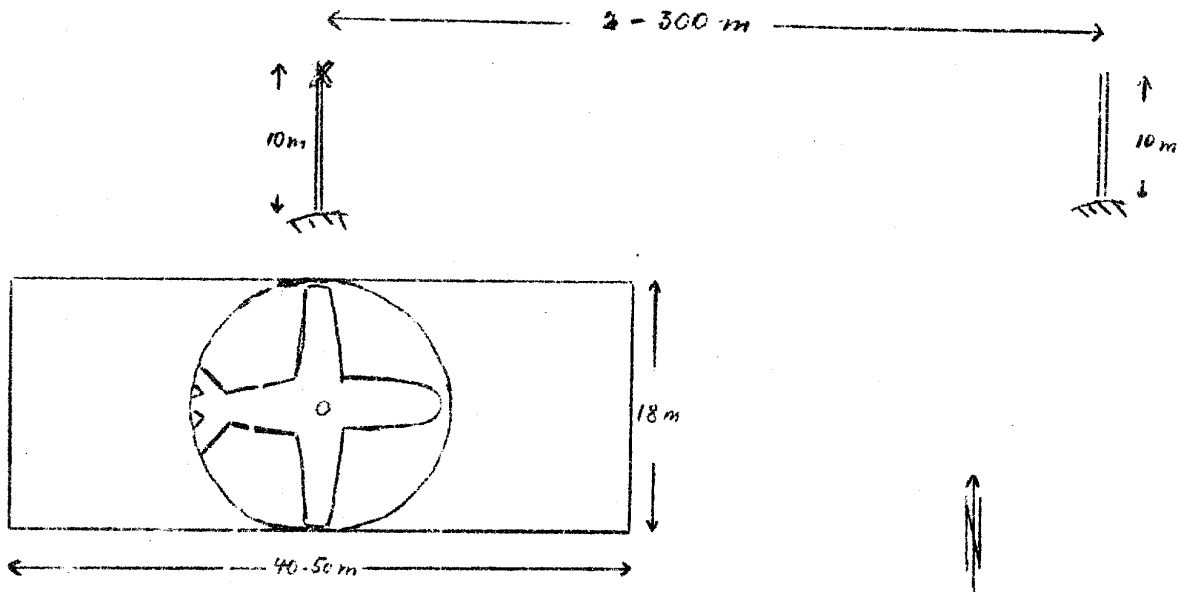
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Annex 2

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Target Marked at Finsterwalde-West Airfield



Not to scale

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